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they are intended have little or no acquaintance with many of the names and titles quoted. Too little care is taken to insure an orderly and intelligible use of dates. Omission of the dates and places of publication of works cited, the employment of confusing abbreviations, the misspelling of proper names, and a Spanish inclination to regard the middle name as of equal importance with the last one are only too abundant. Though it may be conceded that a "systematic knowledge of aboriginal life is a very important part of American history" (p. xvi), the amount of space allotted to it is quite excessive. Numerous minor slips and dubious assertions, finally, require correction before the book will fit the ideal that it so conscientiously strives to represent.

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD.

History of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1647. By WILLIAM BRADFORD. [Edited by WORTHINGTON C. FORD.] In two volumes. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company for the Massachusetts Historical Society. Pp. xvi, 452; xiii, 462.)

AMONG those who both made and sang the great epic of successful English settlement in America three names are pre-eminent. The first is Captain John Smith, whose stirring, though somewhat strident, *Generall Historie* of Virginia and of his own deeds therein has of late appeared in one edition in England (Arber), in another in Scotland (MacLehose), and in a third in America (*Original Narratives* series).

The second is Governor William Bradford. His *History of Plymouth Plantation* does not, like Smith's work, embody merely the energy and aggressive ambition of one masterful man. It rather breathes forth the profound convictions and austere ideals of a powerful though obscure movement and a Cause to which the devoted leader of the Plymouth colony cheerfully subordinated himself.

The third is he who wrote the history of the Bay colony, Governor John Winthrop, in many ways the most fortunate of them all.

Bradford's *History* has already appeared in four distinct editions. The first was published in 1856 by the Massachusetts Historical Society under the supervision of Mr. Charles Deane from a transcript of the original manuscript, which was then in Fulham Palace Library, London. In 1897, this manuscript was given to the state of Massachusetts and deposited in the state library. The legislature authorized the publication of an edition in 1901, which was avowedly a reprint of the text of the Deane edition of 1856. Seven years later William Thomas Davis of Plymouth edited the *History* for Dr. Jameson's series of *Original Narratives of American History*. All of these editions have made some omissions from the text.

The only complete edition of the Bradford manuscript, prior to this time, is a photographic reproduction in facsimile, made in 1895, with an introduction by John Andrew Doyle.

The Massachusetts Historical Society now presents, with the efficient

service of the Houghton Mifflin Company, this unabridged version of Bradford's manuscript, which is to be welcomed as the definitive edition of an historical classic. The Committee of Publication consisted of Charles Francis Adams, Arthur Lord, Morton Dexter, Gamaliel Bradford, jr., and Worthington C. Ford. Mr. Dexter died in 1910 while the work was in progress.

The editorial labors and responsibilities have been adequately sustained by Mr. Ford alone. In form and in every detail the books are a delight to the eye, and the editor's work has been performed with fidelity, admirable judgment, and good taste, and competent scholarship. He has provided a pleasure for the general reader, and for the scholar a thoroughly commendable work of reference.

The text is as accurate as scrupulous care could make it. "The original was taken as a foundation and twice has the printer's proof been collated with the fac-simile of Doyle."

The annotations leave nothing to be desired in scope and quality. They are copious without redundancy, and together with the numerous illustrations afford a satisfying array of illuminative material. Mr. Ford seems to have enjoyed a free rein in the choice and use of illustrations, and yet amid such a profusion of embellishments some connection between illustration and text is invariably preserved, a gratifying evidence of the union of editorial oversight and typographical ingenuity.

Mr. Ford follows Professor Dexter in commenting (I. 134, note) upon "the dearth of intellectual impulse in Plymouth Colony". It is, however, slightly inaccurate to say that the only publications emanating from the colony before 1650 were those of Winslow. Mr. Ford shows (I. 177-178, 213, notes) that he regards "Mourt's *Relation* (London, 1622) as partly the work of Bradford, and that Robert Cushman's sermon (I. 237), preached at Plymouth, December 9, 1621, and intended to promote co-operation between Plymouth and Mr. Weston, was also printed in London in 1622. This was the first New England sermon to be published, and it proceeded from the text, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth."

Rev. Charles Chauncy's sermon, proving the "unlawfulness and danger of Rayling in Altars or Communion Tables", was also, as Mr. Ford shows (II. 300-301), published in London in 1641, while the author was probably still a resident of Plymouth, 1638-1641. Mr. Ford's summary of Professor Dexter's observations might also have properly carried a cross-reference to his own notes (II. 302) upon the plans of Mr. Chauncy and his friends in 1640 for the establishment of an academy at Jones River, "some three miles from Plymouth".

The reader will notice with content that the Massachusetts Historical Society is to continue the notable public service begun in the publication of these handsome volumes. Mr. Ford promises (I. 3, note) another volume which will contain Governor Bradford's Dialogues or conferences. Presumably the surviving Bradford letters will be included. The editor also foreshadows (II. 115, note) the coming publication of a

new edition of Governor Winthrop's *History*, an undertaking for which Mr. Ford's labors upon Bradford's *History* have now provided a fitting introduction.

C. H. L.

A Colonial Governor in Maryland: Horatio Sharpe and his Times, 1753-1773. By Lady EDGAR. (London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1912. Pp. xvi, 311.)

STUDENTS of the colonial period have for some time felt the need of biographical works dealing with men like Governor Sharpe who, as the author frankly states in the preface, was "a character of minor importance" yet whose career was "distinctly interesting" and "illumines a most fascinating period". More especially has it been recognized that sufficient attention has not been directed to the important and difficult part played by the colonial executive. As the main title of this book is *A Colonial Governor*, and as Sharpe's administration covered a period peculiarly adapted to the study of the position, functions, and problems of a colonial governor, it is a little disappointing to find that the author has failed to give a very clear idea of the governor as such—of his relation to assembly, proprietor, and crown. This relation appears incidentally in the material given, but it is left mainly for the reader to do the constructive work if he would understand the office of colonial governor. No doubt the author has such an understanding, as occasional comments on Sharpe's difficult position indicate. For example, "To steer a right course in this sea of difficulties demanded an uncommon share of ability, tact, and firmness. . . . The present lord looked on the province merely as a source of revenue, from which as much as possible was to be drawn. In return, the people were jealous of their rights and privileges as granted by their charter, and not inclined to yield one iota of these privileges in favor of their absent ruler" (pp. 43-44). It is apparent that Sharpe came as near to steering a "right course" as conflicting interests would permit. From the numerous letters quoted the reader may learn something of the obstinacy of the assembly as well as the greed of the proprietor; but no attempt is made by the author to examine adequately controversies on specific questions (such as supply bills, militia bills, income from fines and licenses), to point out their significance in shaping the political doctrines of the colonists, or to present a definite idea of the degree of autonomy demanded by the people. It is well known, of course, that to secure the passage of bills without yielding on questions of prerogative was the most difficult of the governor's duties. To facilitate this was one of the principal reasons for the passage of the Stamp Act.

The subtitle is more appropriate, for the book is a history of the times of Sharpe rather than of himself or of his office. A large part of it is made up of long but pertinent excerpts from Sharpe's Correspondence and the *Maryland Gazette*. This does not make the volume less